

The Old, Old,

- Very Old Man:

OR,

The Age and long Life of Thomas Par, the
Son of John Parr of Winnington in the Parish
of Alberbury; in the County of Salop, (or Shropshire)
who was borne in the Reigne of King Edward
the fourth, in the yeare 1483.

Hee lived 152 yeares, nine monthes and odd dayes,
and departed this Life at Westminster the 15 of Novem.
1635, and is now buried in the Abby at Westminster.

His Manner of Life and Conversation in so long
a Pilgrimage; his Marriages, and his bringing up to
London, about the end of September last. 1635.

Whereunto is Added a Postscript, shewing
the many remarkable Accidents that
hapned in the Life of this Old Man.

Written by JOHN TAYLOR.

LONDON,

Printed for Henry Goffin, at his Shop on
London Bridge, neare to the Gate.

1635.

The Old Man
Ava Old Man
O
The Legend of the Mountain Man
Son of John the Man of Mountains in the Plains
of Appalachia in the County of Saluda (or Spalding)
who was born before the time of King Edward
the Fourth, in the year 1482.

He lived in a forest nine miles from a town called
and died in this place in the year 1500.
1482, and is now buried in the church of St. Mary.
His Mantle of the Red Conqueror is to hang
in Pillingdale; his Mantle is now in the possession of
the same people as of yore, as of old.
Worn out is added a Pottage, likewise
the usual utensils of Accidents apart
placed in the time of this old man.

MINTON TAYLOR.

TONDON
Printed for Henry Gough, at his Shop on
Tottenham Court Road, next to the Grecian
1632.

THE HIGHLAND

MELAS HISTOIE OF RODINGE,

CHIEFLYED BY THE GRACE OF GOD,

KING OF GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE AND

IRLANCE DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, &c.

¶ F Subjects (my dread Liege) tis manifest,
 Y have had the old'st, the greatest, & the least:
 That for an Old, a Great, and Little man,
 No kingdom (sure) compare with Britain can:
 One, for his extraordinary stature,
 Guards well your gates, (by instinct of Nature
 (As hee is strong) is Loyall, True, and Just,
 Fit, and most able, for his Charge and Trust.
 The other's small and well composed feature
 Deserves the Title of a Pretty Creature:
 And doth (or may) retain as good a mind
 As Greater men, and be as well inclin'd:

The Epistle.

Hee may be great in spir't, though small in sight,
Whilst all his best of service, is Delight.

The Oldest, your Subject was; but for my use,
I make him here, the Subject of my Muse:

And as his Aged Person gained the gracie,

That where his Sovereign was, to be in place,

And kisse your Royall Hand; I humbly crave,

His Lives Description may Acceptance have,

And as your Majestie hath oft before

Look'd on my Poems; Pray reade this one more.

Your Majesties

Humble Servt

JOHN TAYLOR.

10 : MARCH 10 1601

JOHN HOWELL 1581 1657

THE OCCASION OF
this Old Man's Being brought out
of Shropshire to LONDON.

And it is impossible for the Sunne to be without light; or fire to have no heate; so is it undenieable that true Honour is as inseparably addicted to Vertue, as the Steele to the Load-stone; and without great violence neither the one or the other can be hindred. Which manifestly appeares, in the conveying out of the Countrey, of this poore ancient Man, Monument I may say, and almost Miracle of Nature.

For the Right Honorable, Thomas Earle of Arundell and Surrey, Earle Marshall of England, &c. being lately in Shropshire to visit some Lands and Manours which his Lordship holds in that County, or, for some other occasions of Importance which caused his Lordship to be there. The Report of this Aged Man was certified to his Honour, who hearing of so remarkable a Piece of Antiquity, his Lordship was pleased to see him, and

Old Man: or
Noble and Christian Piety the
Lover of his Country. 200
and a Litter and two Hor-
ses, a carriage of a man to infec-
t him with Age, to bee provided for
at a Diameter-in-Law of his (named
old likewise attend him, and have a
owne riding with him. And (to
the Old Man, and make him merry)
an Antique-fac'd fellow, called Jacke,
cole, with a high and mighty no Beard,
o a Horse for his carriage. These all
brought out of the Country to Lan-
lourneyes, the Charges being allowed
ship, and likewise one of his seruants
named Brian Kelley, to ride in
with them, and to attend and defray all
Reckonings and Expences, all which
accordingly, as followeth. his Honour
is a Hamlet in the Parish of Athel-
plate called the Welsh Pikes, eight miles
dury, from whence he was carried to
one of the Barles aforesaid, and the next
day (a Manory House of his Lordships)
likewise staied one night from Stratfor
d. W. verhampton, and the next day to

Brünich

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The Life of Thomas Parry.

Brimicham, from thence to Corentry; and although Master Kelley had much to do to keepe the people off that pressed upon him in all places where hee came, yet at Corentry he was most opprest: for they came in such multitudes to see the Old Man, that those that defended him, were almost quite tyred and spent, and the aged man in danger to have bin stifled; and in a word, the rabble were so unruly, that Bryan was in doubt hee should bring his Charge no further; (so greedy are the Vulgar to hearken to, or gaze after novelties.) The trouble being over, the next day they past to Daventry, to stony Stratford, to Redburn, and so to London, where he is well entertain'd, and accomodated with all things, having all the aforesaid Attendants, at the sole Charge and Cost of his Lordship.

One Remarkable Passage of the Old Mans Policies
must not be omitted or forgotten, which is thus.

His three Leases of 63. yeares being expired, he tooke his last Lease of his Landlord (one Master John Porter) for his Life, with which Lease, he did live more then 50. yeares (as is further hereafter declared;) but this Old Man woulde (for his wifes sake) renew his Lease for yeares, which his Landlord would not consent unto; wherfore (having been long blind) sitting in

The very Old Man. or

the fire, his wife look'd out of the window, and perceiv'd Master Edward Porter, the Son of his land-
lord, to come towards their house, which she told
her husband, saying, Husband, our young Land-
lord is comming hither? Is he so, said old Parr; I
prethee wife lay a Pin on the ground neere my
foot, or at my right toe; which she did; and when
yong Master Porter (yet forty yeares old) was come
into the house, after salutations between them, the
Old Man said, Wife, is not that a Pin which lyes at
my foot? Truly husband, quoth she, it is a Pin in-
deed, so she took up the Pin, and Master Porter was
halfe in a maze that the Old Man had recovered
his sight againe; but it was quickly found to be a-
wful conceit therby to have them to suppose him
to be more lively than he was, because hee hop'd
to have his Lease renew'd for his wives sake, as
aforesaid.

Hee hath had two Children by his first wife, a
Son and a Daughter, the Boys name was John, and
lived but ten weeke's; the Gitle was named Joan,
and shee lived but three weeke's: So that it appeares
hee did but live the most part of the people that
are living neare therre three times over.

The Very Old Man:

The Life of Thomas Parr.

AN Old man's twice a child (the proverb saies)
And many old men were sau'd halfe his daies
Of whom I write; for he at first had lost,
When York and Lancaster Domestique strife
In her owne bloud had factibus England brenched,
Vntill sweet Peas those civil flames had quench'd.
When as fourth ~~sonnes~~ ^{daughters} raignt to and drew nigh,
John Parr (a man that liv'd by Husbandry)
Begot this Thomas Parr, and berrie was hille
The yeare of fourteen hundred eighty three,
And as his Fathers Living and his Trade,
Was Plough, and Carr, Sickle, Bill, and Spade,
The Harrow, Mattock, Flayle, Rake, Fork, and Goad,
And Whip, and how to Load, and to Unload,
Old Tom hath shew'd himselfe the son of John,
And from his Fathers function high not gone.

Yet I have read of as meane Pedigrees,
That have attain'd to Nobla dignities:
Agathes a Potters Son, and yet till he
The Kingdome of Sicilie hec did gaine

The very Old Man: or

Great Tamberlaine, a Scythian Shepherd was;
Yet (in his time) all Princes did surpassee.

First Ptolomey (the King of Ægypt's Land)
A poore mans Son of Alexanders Band.

Dioclesian, Emp'rour, was a Scriv'ners Son,
And Proba from a Gard'ner th'Empire won.

Pertinax was a Bondmans Son, and wan
The Empire; So did Valentinian,

Who was the off-spring of a Rope-maker,
And Maximinus of a Mule-driver.

And if I on the truth doe rightly glance,
Hugh Capet was a Butcher, King of France.

By this I have digest, I have exprest
Promotion comes not from the East or West.

• So much for that, now to my Theame againe?
This Thomas Parr did live th'expired Raigne
Of ten great Kings and Queens, th'eleventh now
The scepter, (blessed by chanciers of all dayes) (ways
He did surviue the Edwards, fourth and fift,
And the third Richard, who made many a shift
To place the Crowned on his Ambitious Head,

The seventh & eighth brave Henrys both are deads,
Sixt Edwards, Mary, Phillip, Elizabeth, not evan I say
And blesse remembred unto all these by death
Have changed life, and almost eleven yeares since
The happy raigne of Charles our gracious Prince,

The Life of Thomas Parr.

Tom Parr did live, as by Record appeares
Nine Monthes, one hundred fifty, and two yeares.
Amongst the Learn'd, 'tis held in generall
That every seventh yeare's Climactericall,
And dang'rous to man's life, and that they be
Most perillous at th' Age of sixty three,
Which is, nine Climactericals; but this Man
Of whom I write, (since first his life began)
Did live of Climactericals such plenty,
That he did almost out-live two and twenty.
For by Records, and true Certificate,
From Shropshire late, Relations doth relate,
That Hee liv'd 17 yeares with John his Father,
And 18 with a Master, which I gather
To be full thirtey five; his Sires decease
Left him fourte yeares Possession of a Lease,
Which past; Lew's Porter Gentleman, did then
For twenty one yeares grant his Lease again.
That Lease expired, the Son of Lew's calld John,
Let him the like Lease, and that time being gone,
Then Hugh, the Son of John (last named before)
For one and twenty yeares sold one Lease more.
And lastly, he hath held from John, Hugh's Son,
A Lease for's life, and fifty yeares, ouerlaping into 10
An' when old Thomas is a gro Flashlagland
Return'd, the last Lease did his by right remaine.

Thus having shew'd th' extencion of his Age,
It shew's some Actions of his Pilgrimage.

A tediouſe time a Bachelor haſe tarried
Full eightie yeareſ of age before he married; but
His Conſigneſe to queſtione haſe not call'd
Mans frailtie's, weakeſ; and of a doth ſlip and fall. M
No doubt but he in ſou're score yeareſ might ſhidy
In Salop's Country, females faire and kind. O
But what haue I to doo with that; let paſſe, vñ biſt
At th' age aforesaid he ſirſt married was
To Jane, John Taylors Daughters; and 'tis ſaid, to I
That ſhe (before he had her) was a Mayd. vñ moriſt
With her he liu'd yeareſ threec times ten and two; vñ
And then ſhe di'd (as all good wifes will doe.) In A
She dead, he ten yeareſ di'd a Widdower ſtay'd oſt
Then once more ventred in the Wedlock way. vñ
And, in affection to his firſt wife Jane, ſayd he
Hee tooke another aft that name againe. knowſ to I
(With whom he late did liuel) ſhe was a widow. vñ
To one nam'd Anthony (and ſurſam'd Adder) vñ
She was (as by report it doth appear) A gallant
Of Gilſell Parish, in Montgomery ſhire. vñ
The Daughter of John Layde (or corruptly Bleed) vñ
Of ancient house, and gentle Cymbrian Blood. vñ
But hold, I haſe forgot, in's firſt wife's Time, vñ
Hee ſrayly, ſouly, ſell'd into a Crime. vñ
Which

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The Life of Thomas Part.

Which richer, poorer, older men, and younger,
More base, more noble, weaker men, and stronger
Have falle into.

The Cytherean, or the Pappian game,
That thundring *Jupiter* did oft inflame;
Most cruell cut-throat *Mars* layd by his Armes,
And was a slave to Loves Inchanting charmes,
And many a Pagan god, and semi-god,
The common road of lustfull love hath trod :
For from the Emp'our to the russet Clowne,
All states, each sex, from Cottage to the Crowne,
Have in all Ages since the first Creation,
Bett foyl'd, & overthrown with Loves temptation:
So was old *Thomas*, for he chanc'd to spy
A Beauty, and Love entred at his eye,
Whose pow'full motion drew on sweet consent,
Consent drew Action, Action drew Content,
But when the period of these joyes were past,
Those sweet delights were surely Isuc dat last.
The flesh retaines what in the Bone is brod,
And one Colrstoole was then in old *Tom* head,
It may be he was guld as some have bin,
And suffred punishment for others sinne;
For pleasures like a trap, a grin or snare,
Or (like a painted harlot) seemes molt faire,
But when she goes away, and takes her leave,
No ugly Beast so foul a shape can have.

Faire Kaiserin Milton, was this Beauty bright,
(Faire like an Angell, but in weight too light),
Whose fervent feature did inflame so far
The Ardent fervour of old Thomas Parr,
That for Lawes satisfaction, twas thought meet,
He should be purg'd, by standing in a Sheet,
Which aged (He) one hundred and five yea're,
In Alberbury's Parish-Church did weare,
Should All that so offend, such Penance doe,
Oh, what a price would Linnen rise unto,
All would be turn'd to Sheets, our Shirts & Smocks
Our Table linnen, very Porters Frocks
Would hardly scape trans-forming, but all's one,
He suffered, and his Punishment is done.

But to proceed, more serious in Relation,
He is a Wonder, worthy Admiracion,
Hee's (in these times fill'd with Iniquity)
No antiquary, but Antiquy;
For his Longevity's of such extent,
That hee's a living mortall Monument.
And as high Towres, (that seeme the sky to shoul-
By eating Tyme consume away, and molder, (der)
Vntill at last in piece-meale they doe fall;
Till they are buried in their Ruines All:
So this Old Man, his limbs their strength have left,
His teeth all gone, (but one) his sight bereft,

His

His sinewes shruak, his blood most chill and cold,
Small solace, Imperfections manifold :
Yet did his sp'rits possesse his mortall Trunk ;
Nor were his senses in his ruines shruak,
But that with Hearing quick, and stomach good,
Hee'd feed well, sleep well, well digest his food.
He would speak heartily, laugh, and be merry ;
Drinke Ale, and now and then a cup of Sherry ;
Lov'd Company, and Vnderstanding talk,
And (on borth sides held up) would somtimes walk.
And though old Age his face with wrinkles fill,
He hath been handsome, and was comely still,
Well fac'd, and though his Beard not oft corrected,
Yet neat it grew, not like a Beard neglected ;
From head to heele, his body had all over,
A Quick-set, Thick-set nat'rall hairy cover.
And thus (as my dull weake Invention can)
I have Annatomiz'd this poore Old Man.

Though Age be incident to most transgressing,
Yet Time well spent, makes Age to be a blessing.
And if our studies would but daign to look,
And seriously to ponder Natures Booke,
We there may read, that Man, the noblest Creature,
By ryot and excesse doth murder Nature.
This man nere fed on deare compounded dishes,
Of Metamorphos'd beasts, fruits, fowls, and fishes.

The earth, and ayre, the boundlesse Ocean
 Were never rak'd nor forrag'd for this Man ;
 Nor eyer did Physician to (his cost)
 Send purging Physick through his guts in post :
 In all his life time he was never knowne,
 That drinking others healths, he lost his owne ;
 The Dutch, the French, the Greek, and Spanish Grape,
 Upon his reason never made a Rape ;
 For *Ryot*, is for *Troy* an Annagram ;
 And *Ryot* wasted *Troy*, with sword and flame :
 And surely that which will a Kingdome spill,
 Hath much more power one silly man to kill,
 Whilst sensuality the Pallat pleases,
 The body's fill'd with surfets, and diseases ;
 By *Ryot* (more than War) men slaughtered be,
 From which confusion this Old Man was free.
 He once was catch'd in the Venerall Sin,
 And (being punish'd) did experience win,
 That carefull feare his Conscience so did strike,
 He never would againe attempt the like.
 Which to our understandings may expresse
 Mens dayes are shortned through lasciviousnesse,
 And that a competent contenting Dyt
 Makes men live long, and soundly sleepe in quiet.
 Take me not, I speake not to debauch
 One of all sorts, for all Creatures are

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The Life of Thomas Parr.

Made for mans use, and may by Man be us'd,
Not by voracious Gluttony abus'd.
For hee that dares to scandall or deprave
Good hous-keeping; Oh hang up such a Knaue,
Rather commend (what is not to be found)
Then injure that w^{ch} makes the world renownd.
Bounty hath got a spiece of *Lethargie*,
And liberall noble *Hospitality*
Lyes in consumption, almost pin'd to death,
And *Charity* benum'd, neere out of Breath.
May Englands few good hous-keepers be blest
With endlesse Glory, and eternall Rest;
And may their Goods, Lands, and their happy Seed
With heav'n's best Blessings multiply and breed.
'Tis madnesse to build heigh with stome and lime,
Great houses, that may feeme the Clouds to clime,
With spacious Halls, large Galleries, brave roomes
Fit to receive a King, Peeres, Squires and Groomes;
Amongst which rooms, the devill hath put a Witch
And made a small *Tobacco-box* the Kitchin
For Covetousnesse the Mint of Mischiefe is,
And *Christian Bounty* the High-way to Blisse.
To weare a *Farm* in shoo-strings edg'd with gold,
And spangled Garters worth a *Coppy hold*
A hose and dublet; which a Lordship cost,
A gawdy cloake (thrice Manours price) almost
all

The very Old Man: or

A Beaver, Band, and Feather for the head,
 (Priz'd at the Churches tythe, the poor mans bread)
 For which the Wearers are fear'd, and abhor'd
 Like Jeroboams golden Calves ador'd.

This double, treble aged man, I wot,
 Knew and remember'd when these things were
 Good wholesome labour was his exercise, (not;
 Down wth the Lamb, & with the Lark wthold rise,
 In myre and toyling sweat hee spent the day,
 And (to his Teame) hee whistled Time away:
 The Cock his night-Clock, and till day was done,
 His Watch, and chiese Sun-Dial, was the Sun.
 Hee was of old Pitbagoras opinion, (onion).
 That greene cheese was most wholesome (with an
 Course Mesclin bread, and for his daily swig,
 Milk, Butter-milk, and Water, Whay, and Whig;
 Sometimes Metheglin, and by fortunehappy,
 Hee sometimes sipp'd a Cup of Ale, most nappy,
 Syder, or Perry, when hee did repaire
 To Whitson Ale, Wake, Wedding, or a Faire,
 Or when in Christmas time hee was a Guest
 At his good Land-lords house amongst the rest:
 Else hee had little leasure Time to waste,
 Or (at the Alchouse) huffe-cap Ale to taste
 Nor did hee ever hunt a Taverne Fox,
 Nere knew a Coach, Tobacco, or the Pox;

His

The Life of Thomas Parr.

His Physick was good Bitter, which the soyle
Of Salop yields, more sweet than Candy soyle,
And Garlick hee esteem'd above the rate
Of Venice-Triacle, or best Mithridate.
Hee entertain'd no Gout, no Ache hee felt,
The ayre was good, and temp'rat where he dwelt,
Whilst Marisses, and sweet tongu'd Nightingales
Did chane him Roundelayes, and Madrigals.
Thus living within bounds of Natures Lawes,
Of his long lasting life may be some cause.
For though th' almighty all mans daies do measure,
And doth dispose of life and death at pleasure,
Yet Nature being wrong'd, mans dayes and date
May be abridg'd, and God may tollerate.

But had the Father of this Thomas Parr,
His Grand-father, and his Great grand-father,
Had their lives thredes so long a length been spauy,
They (by succession) might from Sire to Son
Have been unwritten Chronicles, and by
Tradition shew Times mutability.
Then Parr might say he heard his Father well,
Say that his Grand-sire heard his Father tell
The death of famous Edward the Confessor,
(Harrold) and William Conquerour his successor,
How his Son Robert wan Jerualem
Ore-came the Saracens, and Conquer'd them.

How Rufus reign'd, and's Brother Henry next,
And how usurping ~~Stew~~ this Kingdome next.
How Maud the Empress (the first Harry's daughter)
To gaine her Right, fill'd England full of slaughter.
Of second Henry's Rosamond the faire,
Of Richard Cœur de Lyon, his brave heire,
King John, and of the soule suspition
Of Arthur's death, John's elder Brother's Son.
Of the third Henry's long raigne (sixty yeares)
The Barons wars, the losse of wrangling Peeres,
How Long-shanks did the Scotts & French convince,
Tame'd Wales, and made his haples son their Prince.
How second Edward was Carnarvon call'd,
Beaten by ~~Scot~~, and by his Queen in thrall'd.
How the third Edward, fifty yeares did raigne,
And t'honor'd Garter's Order did ordaine.
Next how the second Richard liv'd and dy'd,
And how fourth Harry's faction did divide
The Realme with civil (most uncivill) war.
Twixt long contending Yorke and Lancaster.
How the fist Henry lwayd, and how his son
Sixt Henry, a sad Pilgrymage did run.
Then of fourth Edward, and faire Mistresse Shores,
King Edward's Concubine Lord Hastings (—).
Then how fist Edward, murthered with a trick
Of the third Richard, and then how that Digh

Was

The Life of Thomas Parr.

Was by seventh *Henries* slaine at Bosworth field;
How he and his son the eighth *Henry*, here did wield
The Scepter; howe first *Edward* swayd,
How *Mary* rul'd, and how that roiall Mayd
Elizabeth did Governe (best of Dames)
And Phenix-like expir'd, and how just *James*
(Another Phenix) from her Ashes claimes
The right of Britaines Scepter, as his owne,
But (changing for a better) left the Crowne
Where now tis, with King *Charles*, and may it be
With him, and his most blest Posterity
Till time shall end; be they on Earth renownd,
And after with Eternity be crownd. (ding)
Thus had *Parr* had good breeding, (without rea-
Hee from his sicc, and Grandlises fire proceeding,
By word of mouth had told most famous things
Done in the Raigns of althoſe Queens and Kings:
But hee in Husbandry hath vs brought up,
And nere did taste the Heliconian cup,
He nere knew History, nor in mind did keepe
Ought but the price of Corne, Hay, Kine, or Sheep.
Day found him work, and Night allowd him rest.
Nor did Affaires of State his braine molest.
His high Ambition was, A tree to top,
Or at the furthest to a May-pole top,
His Recreation, and his Mirths discouer'd
Moth been the Pyper, and the Hobby-hors. And

And in this simple sort, hee did with paine,
 From Childhood live to bee a Child againe.
 'Tis strange, a man that was in yeares so grownde
 Should not be rich; but to the world 'tis knowne,
 That hee that's borne in any Land, or Nation,
 Vnder a Twelve-pence Planet's Domination,
 (By working of that Planets influence)
 Shall never live to be worth thirteene pence.
 Whereby (although his Learning did not shew it)
 He was rich enough to be (like mee) a Poet.

But er'e I doe conclude, I will relate
 Of reverend Age's Honourable state;
 Where shall a young man good Instructions have,
 But from the Ancient, from Experience grave ?
 Roboam, (Sonne and Heire to Salomon)
 Rejecting ancient Counsell, was undone
 Almost; for ten of the twelve Tribes fell
 To Jeroboam King of Israel.
 And all wise Princes, and great Potentates
 Select and chuse Old men, as Magistrates,
 Whose Wisedome, and whose reverend Aspect,
 Knowes how and when to punish or protect.
 The Patriarkes long lives before the Flood,
 Were given them (as 'tis rightly understood)
 To store and multiply by procreations,
 That people should inhabit and breed Nations.

That

The Life of Thomas Park.

That th' Ancients their Posterities might shew
The secrets Deepe of Nature, how to know
To scale the skie with learn'd *Astronomy*,
And found the Oceans deepe profundity,
But chiefly how to serve, and to obey
God, who did make them out of slime and clay;
Should men live now, as long as they did then,
The Earth could not sustaine the Breed of Men.
Each man had many wives, which Bigamic,
Was such increase to their Posterity,
That one old man might see before he dy'd,
That his owne only off-spring had supply'd
And Peopled Kingdomes.
But now so brittle's the estate of man,
That (in Comparison) his life's a span.
Yet since the Flood it may be proved plaine,
That many did a longer life retain,
Than him I write of, for Arphaxad liv'd
Four hundred thirty eight, Sheslah surviv'd
Four hundred thirty three years, Eber more,
For he liv'd twice two hundred sixty four,
Two hundred years Terah was alive,
And Abr'ham liv'd one hundred seventy five,
Before Iob's Troubles, holy writ relates,
His sons and daughters were at marriage states,
And after his restoring, 'tis most cleare,

The Wryng of Mankind

That he surviving done hundred forty years.
John Brudenell is reported to be
Is his name that is still, The Wandering Jew.
Tis said, he saw our Saxon dyed; and how he
He was a man then, and is living now.
Whereof Relation you (that will) may beader;
But pardon me, tis no part of my Creed
Upon a Germanes Age, is written thus,
That one *Johnnes de Temporibus*
Was Armour-bearer to *Brane Charlemaigne*,
And that unto the same he did attain a blo on the 2d
Of yeare three hundred forty ones, and then died.
Old John of Times return'd to Earth again,
And Noble Nestor, to the siege of *Dwyd of vyn* and boyd.
Had liv'd three hundred years both man and boy.
Sir Walter Raynold (a most learned Kinghe) telleth
Doth of an *Irish Countesse*, *Dysmunda Navies*, and
Of seven score years of Age he with her spake
The Lord Saint Albans, doth more then can make
That she was Married in Bourne, and in a city of
Thrice shed her Teeth, which three times came to
The High-land Stow, and the *Wylde Irish* are gained.
Long liv'd with Labour hard, and temperate fare
Against the Barbarous Irish, some live strong
And many die, neare two hundred winters long.
So, as I told before, my Verse goes this way
By wronging Nature men cut off their dayes.

Therefore (as Times are) He I now write say, ²⁰
The age of all the Britains bath out gone; ¹¹
All those that were alive when he had Birth, ¹²
Are turn'd againe unto their mother earth, ¹³
If any of them live, ¹⁴ and berephye, ¹⁵ as it were I
I will be sorry, and confess I lyg. ¹⁶ ~~but am I wro~~
For had he bin a Marchant, then perhaps ¹⁷ ~~had he bin a~~
Stormes, Thundereclaps, or Shrecks of Affertlaps, ¹⁸ ~~had he bin a~~
Sands, Rocks, or Roving Pynts, Gales and stormes
Had made him (long before) the food of worms;
Had he a Mercer, or a Silk-man bin,
And trusted much in hope great gaine to win,
And late and early striv'd to get or save,
His Gray head had long sence been laid in Grave.
Or had he been a Judge or Magistrate,
Or of Great Counsell in Affaires of state
Then dayes important busynesse, and nights cares
Had long before, Inter'd his hoary haires;
But as I writ before, no cares opprest him,
Nor ever did Affaires of state molest him.
Some may object, that they will not believe
His Age to be so much, for none can give
Account thereof, Time being past so far,
And at his Birth there was no Register.
The Register was ninty seven years sence
Giv'n by th' eight Henry (that illustrious Prince)

The very Old Man: or

Th'yeare fifteen hundred fourty wanting twaine)
And in the thirtieth yeare of that Kings raigne;
So old Parr now, was almost an old man,
Neere sixty ere the Register began.
I have writ as much as Reason can require,
How Times did passe; how's Leases did expire;
And Gentlemen o'th County did Relate
To our gracious King by their Certificate
His age, & how time wth gray haire hath crownd
And so I leave him older than I found him.

A Postscript.

The changes of Manners, the variations of Customes, the mutability of Times, the Shiftings of Fashions, the alterations of Religions, the diversities of Sects, and the inferniture of Accidents which hath hapned since the Birth of this old *Thomas Parr*, in this Kingdom; although all of them are not to be held worthy of mentioning, yet many of them are worthy to be had in memory.

In the sixt yeare of his Age, and in the second yeare of the raigne of King *Henry the seventh*, one *Lambert Simmell*, (the Son of a Baker) claimed the Crowne, and was crowned King of *Ireland*, and Proclaimed King of *England* in the City of *Dublin*. This *Paltry* fellow did put the King to much cost and trouble, for hee landed with an Army at *Powdrey* in *Lancashire*, and at a place called *Stoke*, the King met him, and after a sharpe and short Battell, overcame and tooke him, and pardoning him his Life, gave him a *Tarn-bratches* place to thin, and afterwards made him one of his *Fauconers*.

In the tenth yeare of his Age, and the eighth of *Henry the seventh* another *Yongster*, whose name was *Parken Warbeck* (as some write, a *Tinker*, some a *Thurifer*) some lay his Father was a *Jew*; notwithstanding

standing, he likewise put the King to much charge and trouble, for he was assisted with Souldiers from Scotland and France; besides, many joyned with him in England, till at the last, the King tooke him, and (on his true Confession, pardon'd him) hee falling againe to his old Practice, was executed at Tyburne. 1499.

The same yeare also, a Shoomakers Son, dwelling in *Bishopsgate*-*Street*, likewise claimed the Crowne, under the name of *Edward*, Earle of *Warwick*, the son of *George*, Duke of *Clarence*, Brother to King *Edward* the fourth; but this young Shoomaker ended his claime in a halter at *Saint Thomas a Waterings*; which was a warning for him, not to surpassee *Ne suror ultra Crepidam*.

Another Counterfeit, the Son of a Miller claimed the Crowne, (in the secoad yeare of *Queene Marias* raigne) saying that hee was King *Edward* the sixt; but the tenth of *May*, 1552, those Royall Opinions were whip'd out of him for a while, till hee fell to his old claime agen, and purchas'd a hanging the thirteenth of *March* following. So much for Impostures and Counterfeits.

For Religion, hee hath knowne the Times of divers Sects and Changes, as the Romish Catholick Religion from his Birth, till the 24 yeare of King *Henry* the eight, the time of 50 years: And then the 25 of his raigne (the Kings understanding being Illuminated from above) hee cast the Popes Authority out of this Kingdome, 1534, and restored the Ancient and Primitive Religion, which continued under the Title of *Protestants*, till the end of his Son, King *Edward* the sixt his raign, which was neer about 20 years, then was a bloddy alteration, or return to Papistry for more than 5 years, at the raign of *Queen Mary*; since whose death, the Protestant Religion again was happily restored, continued, and maistained by the Defenders of the True, Ancient, Catholike, and Apostolike Faith, these 60 years and more, under the blessed Governments of *Queene Elizabeth*, King *James*, and King *Charles*: All which time, *Thomas Parr* hath not been troubled in mind for either the building or throwing downe of Abbes, and Religious Housse; nor did hee ever murmur at the manner of Prayers, let them be Latin or English; hee held it sufficient to be of the Religion of the King or *Queene* that were in being, for hee knew that hee came raw into the world, and accounted it no violence of Wisedome to be broyled out of it: His name was never questioned for affirming or decyng the Kings Supremacie: Hee hath knowne the

A Poynt of grippe.

time when men were so mad as to kneele downe and pray before a Blocke, a Stock, a Stone, a Picture, or a Relique of a Hee or Shee Saint departed; and he liv'd in a time when mad men would not bow their knee at the name of *Iesus*; that are more afraid to see a white Surplice, than to weare a white Sheet; that despise the Crosse (in any thing but mony) that hold Latin to be the language of the Beast, and hate it deadly because the Pope speaks it; that would patch up a Religion with untemper'd Morter, out of their owne Braines, not grounded upon the true Corner-stone; who are furnish'd with a lazy, idle Faith; that holds good workes a mane Point of Popery; that hold their Religion truest, because it is contrary to all Order and Discipline, both of Church and Common-walth: These are sprung up since old *Tom Parr* was borne.

But he hath out-liv'd many Sectaries and Heretikes; For in the 32. year of the raigne of King *Henry the eighth*, 1540. the 3 of May, throe Annabaptists were burnt in the High-way, betweene *Southwark* and *Newington*. In the fourth year of King *Edward the sixt*, one *George of Paris*, a Dutchman, was burn'd in *Smithfield*, for being an Arian Heretike, 1551. 1583. One *John Lewis* denied the God-head of Christ, was burnt at *Norwich*, in the 26. year of *Elizabeth*. Not long before that, there was one *Long Butcher* (Alias) *Lowe of Kent*, burnt for the like.

In the third year of *Queene Elizabeth's raigne*, one *William Geffrey* affirmed one *John Adams* to be Christ, but they were both whip'd out of that presumptuous Opinion, 1558.

In the 17. of *Queene Elizabeth*, the Sect of the *Family of Love* began, 1571, but it tooke no deep root.

In the 25. of *Queene Elizabeth*, one *Matthew Hammon* was burn'd at *Nerwiche* for denying Christ to be our Saviour.

In the 23. of *Queene Elizabeth*, one *William Flacke* was hang'd for professing himselfe to be Christ, 1581.

In the 9. year of *king James*, the 13. of April, 1601, one *Edward Wrightman* was burn'd at *Lichfield* for Arianisme.

So much have I written concerning Sects and Heretikes which have beeene in this Kingdome in his time & now. I treat of some other Poyntes.

He hath out-liv'd six great PLAGUES. Hee was borne long before we had much use of printing: for it was brought into this Kingdome

done 1472, and it was long after ere it was in use.

Hee was above 80 years old before any Gunnies were made in England, 1535.

The Vintoners sold no Sacks, Muscadels, Malmseys, Bafitards, Allegants, nor any other Wines but White and Claret, till the 33 years of King Henry the eight 1547, and then was Old Port 60 years of age: all those sweet Wines were sold till that time at the Apothecaries for no other use, but for Medicines.

There was no Starch used in England, till a Flanders Woman, one Mistris Dingben Vanden Plasse brought in the use of Starch, 1564, and then was this man-neere 80 years old.

There were no Bands worne till King Henry the eightts time, for hee was the first King that ever wore a Band in England, 1513.

Womens Masques, Busks, Muskes, Fannes, Periwigs, and Bockins, were invented by Italian Curtezans, and transported through France into England, in the raign of Queen Elizabeth.

Tobacco was first Brought into England by Sir John Hawkins, 1565, but it was first brought into use by Sir Walter Rawleigh many years after.

He was 81 years old before there was any Coach in England. For the first that ever was seche here, was brought out of the Nether-lands, by one William Bonney, a Dutch-man, who gave a Coach to Queen Elizabeth, (for she had beene seven years a Queen before she had any Coach) since when, they have increased (with a mischeare and rulid aff the Bell Houle-keeping, to the undoing of the Water-men, by the mulitudis of Hackney or hired Coaches, but they never swarmed so thick to pester the streeets, as they doe now, till the yeare 1605, and then was the Gun-powder Treason, hatched, and at that time did the streeets breed and multiply.)

He hath outliv'd the fashion, at least 40 times over and over.

He hath known many Changes of Scarcity (or Death) and Plen-
tie: but I will speake onely of the Plenlie.

In the yeare 1490, the 15 of Henry 7. Whare was sold for
the quarter, or 6. 4. the buttell, and 1. 10. the pinte, and Wine at 10
pounds the Ton, (whiche is about 1600 pinte in the quart.)

In the first of Queen Mary, 1553, the 10th of October, sixpence the Bar-
rel, (the Cask and all) and Wine at 10 pinte for one penny.

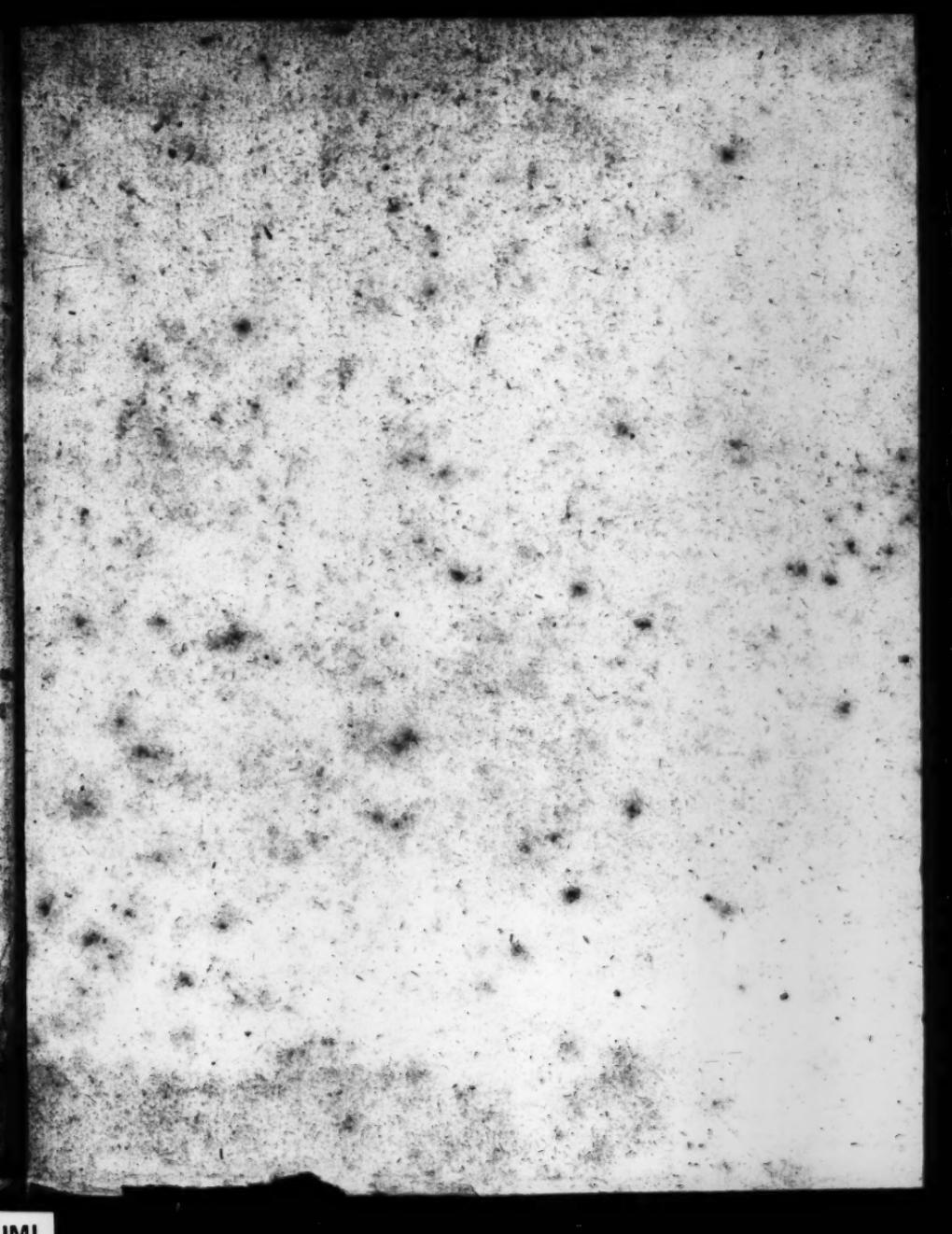
In the yeare 1557, the 15th of October, 1557, the Penny.

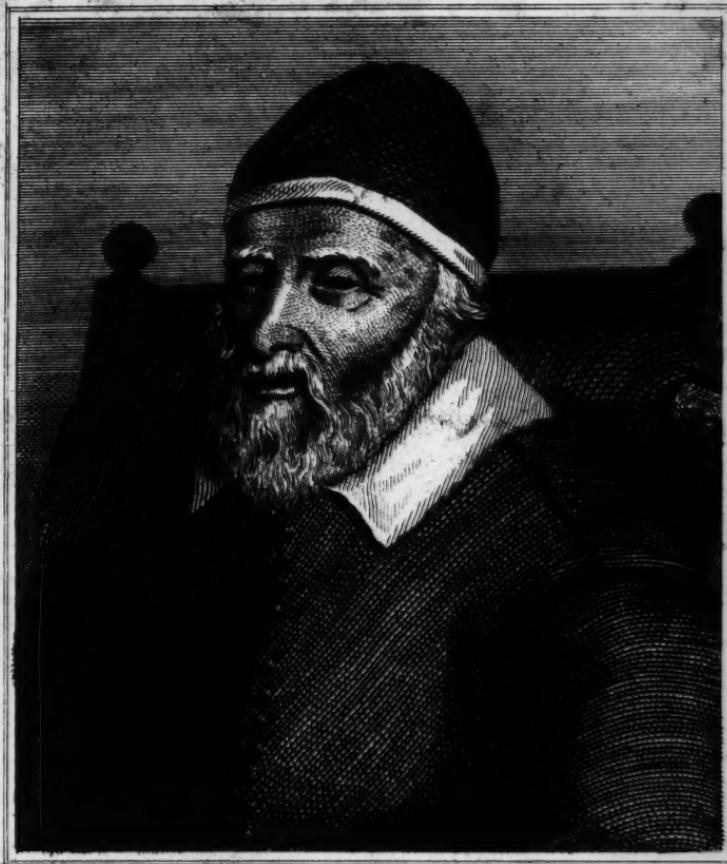
Leafe was in-
charge a Bushell of

So much that it is hard to imagine the kind of political negotiations that have happened in the last few years.

Now for a Memoriall of his Name. He gave his Name
I will not search for the Antiquity of the name of *Parc*, but
to be an Honourable name in the 15th year of King Edward VI. he was
the King sent Sir *William Parc* Knight to come before the Assisition
of Yorks Goods, at a place called the *Mote*, in *Harrowell* - 1572 -
this Sir *William Parc* was Knight of the Right Honourable Order
of the Garter.

In the 22nd Edward the fourth, the late Sir William Paston went with an Army towards Scotland, with Richard Duke of Gloucest.



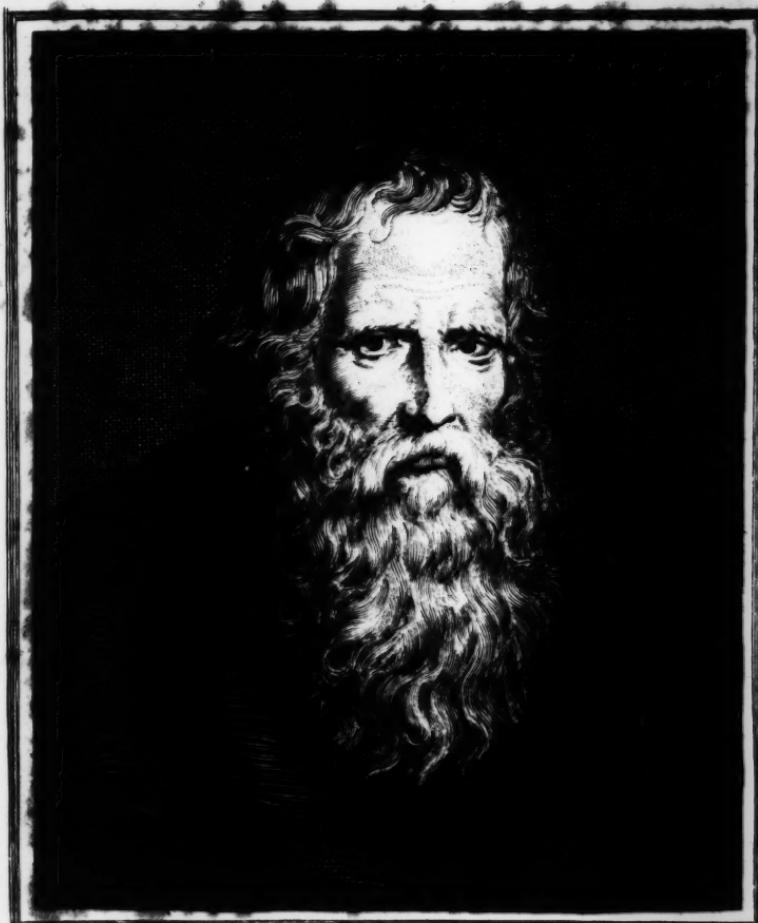


Old THOMAS PARR of
Winnington in Shropshire,

Who lived in the Reign of Ten Kings & Queens.

He died in the Strand, 1634. Aged 152 Years.



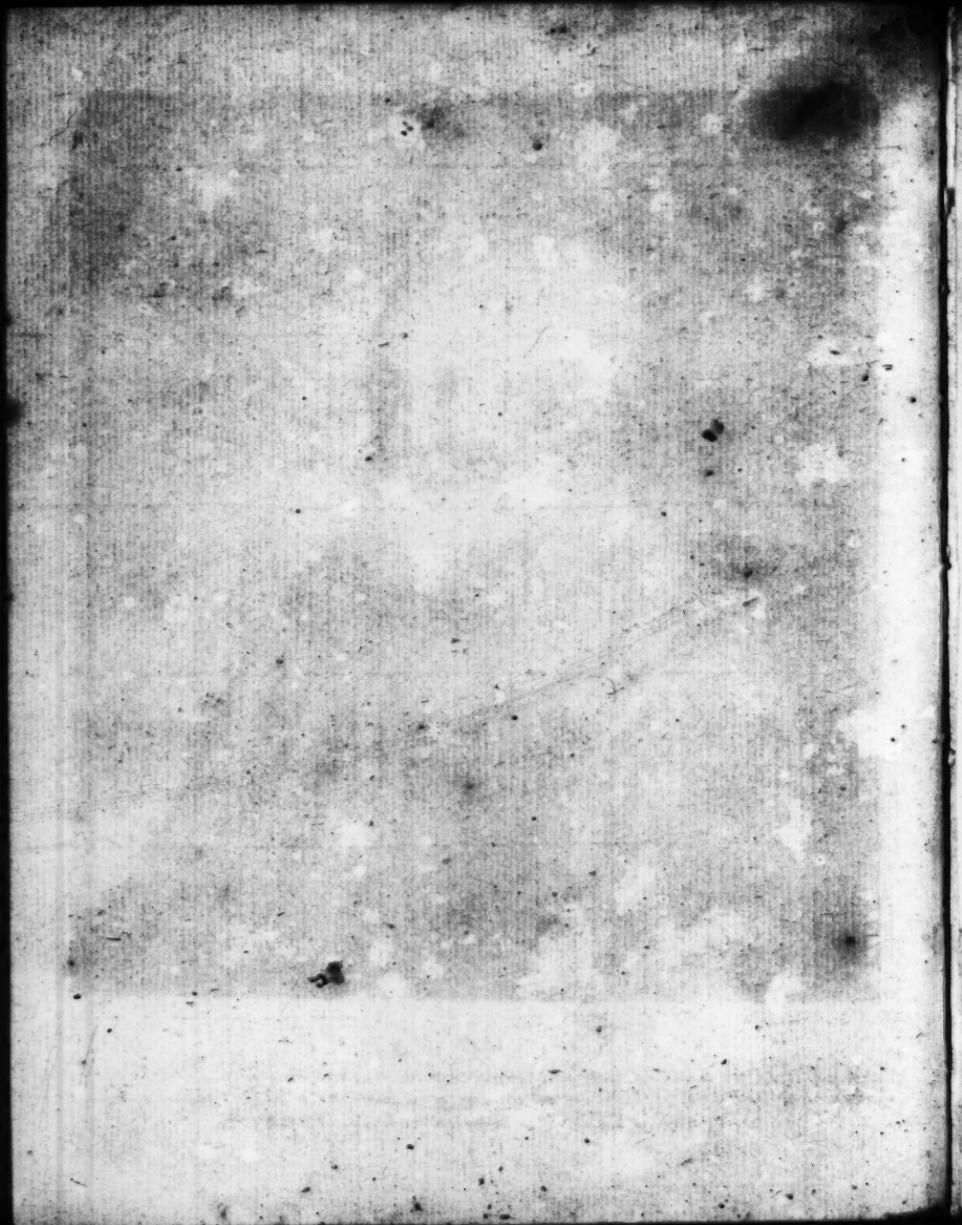


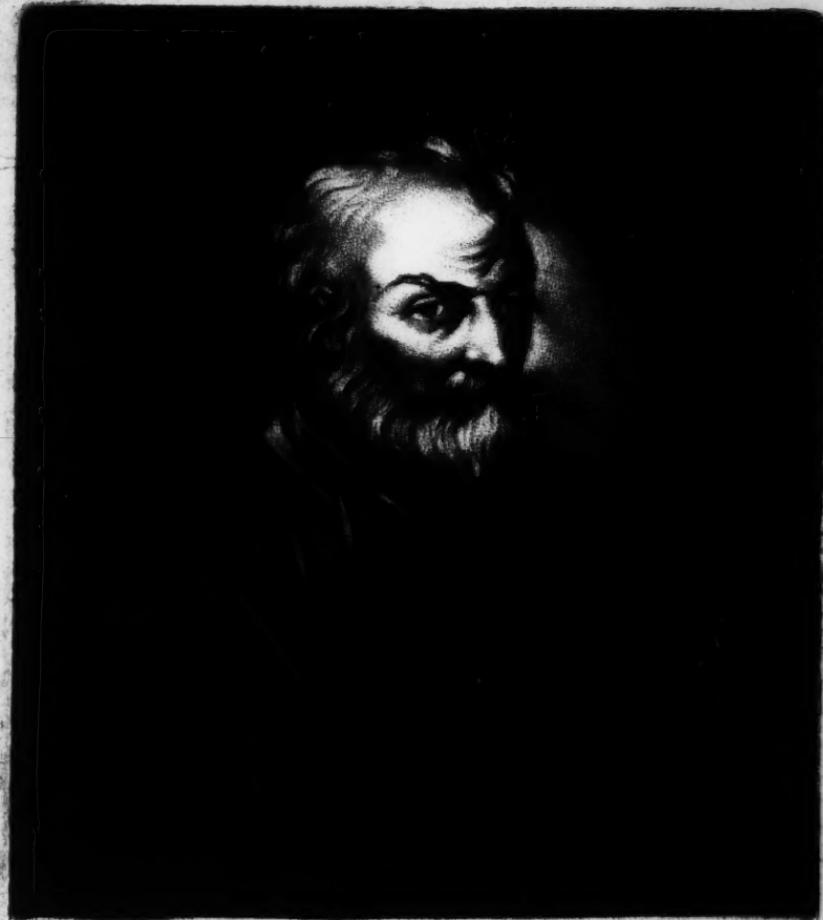
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OLD PARR.

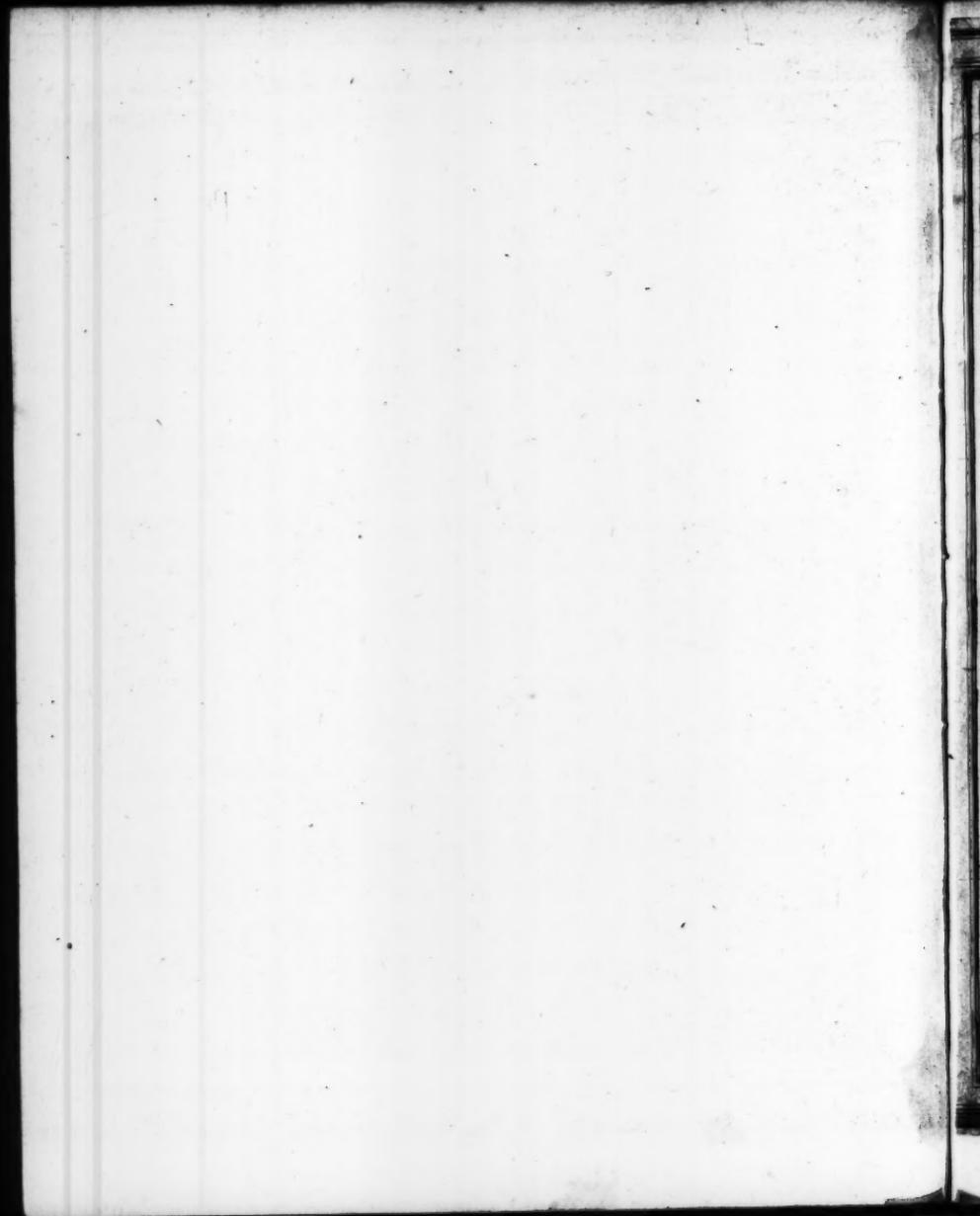
Aged 152 Years.



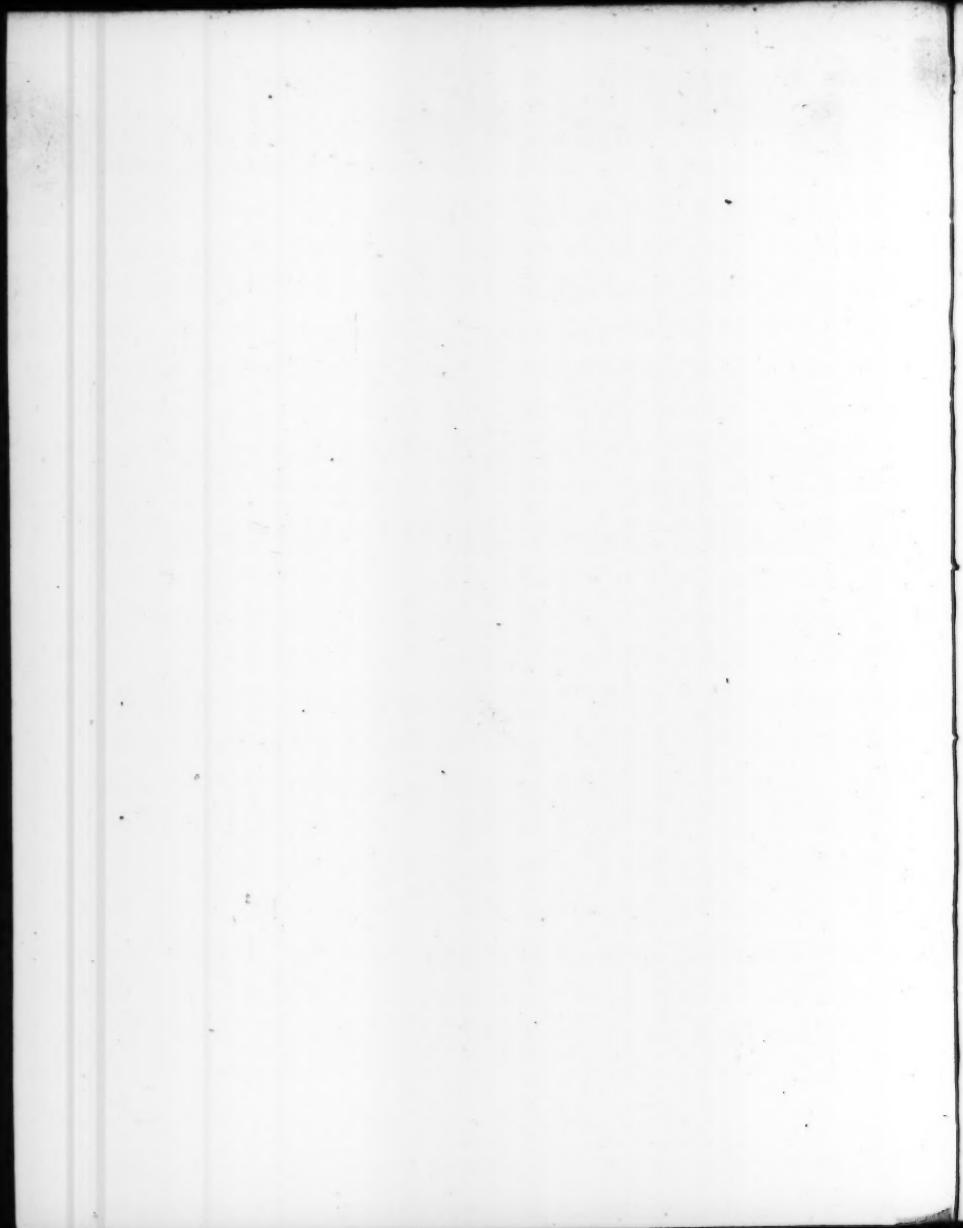


YOUNG PARR.

Son to Thos. Parr the Shropshire man, who was born in 1483 & died in 1535. His living
to so great an Age as 52 Years, occasioned his Son to be called young Parr, as past & score.
Printed for Rab: Sayer, at the Golden Buck in Fleet Street.

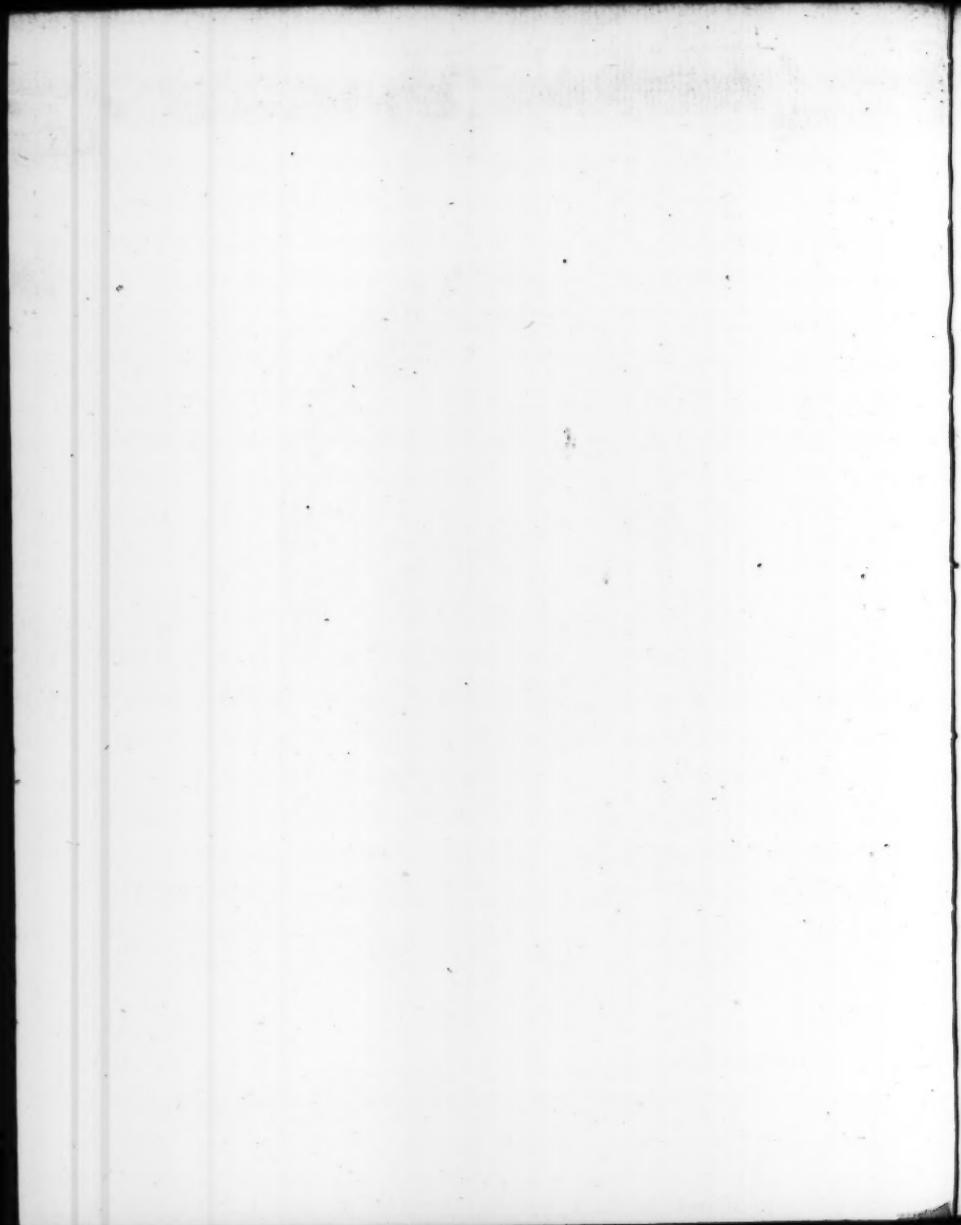








OLD PARR.



THOMAS PARR.



Mr. Parr in 1807 by James Anderson.





OLD PARR.

Engraved for the Encyclopaedia Londinensis 1782



THOMAS PARR.